Daily Report

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Cuba

Further Reportage on Cuban Inmate Riots in U.S.

'Case-by-Case' Handling

PA242302 Paris AFP in Spanish 2137 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Havana, 24 Nov (AFP)—A Cuban Government source told AFP this afternoon that Havana will handle the Marielitos according to the new immigration agreement between Cuba and the United States on a case-by-case basis.

The Foreign Ministry source said: "Anyone who has committed a serious, violent crime will have to answer charges. Anyone not in trouble with the law will be allowed to join society and live a normal life."

The source said, however: "If the crime has been committed in the United States, U.S. legal authorities must produce proof." Even so, "trials will be conducted here according to law, lest an action regarded as a crime there is not considered one here."

As an example, the source mentioned the 201 Marielitos returned by the United States to Cuba as undesirables between the end of 1984 and May 1985, when the original accord was still in force. The source said: "Most of those people are back on the streets, working, and have joined (Cuban) society in various ways."

About 2,500 Marielitos—who are held in prison in the United States and could be returned to Cuba at the rate of 100 per month according to the immigration accord—rioted in prisons in Oakdale, Louisiana, on Saturday and in Atlanta, Georgia, on Monday. The inmates are holding a number of hostages and have torched the installations.

Havana Pardons Marielitos

PA250231 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0212 GMT 25 Nov 87

[Text] Havana, 24 Nov (EFE)—The Cuban Government announced tonight that it will pardon the "Marielitos" jailed in the United States for the illegal activities they may have carried out prior to leaving Cuba.

Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon, a negotiator for the immigration agreement with the United States, read a communique at the Foreign Ministry in which he announced that the Cuban Government will not adopt "any type of reprisal" against the people who return to Cuba by virtue of the agreement.

The communique stated that the Cubans jailed in the United States "will be exonerated of any illegal activities they may have carried out prior to leaving Cuba."

Security at Florida Jails

PA250029 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] U.S. authorities have increased security measures at Florida jails, where they are holding more than 800 Cuban citizens, to prevent uprisings similar to those at the Oakdale and Atlanta penitentiaries. At the Atlanta, Georgia penitentiary, six prisoners have already been killed, and 30 people have been injured during the disturbances.

In Oakdale, the Cuban prisoners are holding more than 20 guards and institution officials hostage. The uprisings, which began on Saturday after the resumption of the immigration agreements between the United States and Cuba was announced, have increased, despite a promise by U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese that deportations will be delayed for 6 months so that each case can be analyzed.

UN Delegate Discusses Cuban, U.S. Prisons

PA241637 Havana International Service in Spanish 1603 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Ivan Mora, Cuban delegate to the UN Committee for Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Affairs, on Monday rejected the slander campaign launched by the United States regarding the existence of torture in the Cuban prisons. Mora stressed that to organize its slander, Washington uses the same counterrevolutionary individuals it has previously used to instigate terrorist actions, assassinations, and espionage in Cuban territory.

The Cuban diplomat pointed out that Cuba has been perfidiously accused of torturing prisoners. He added, however, that one would have to ask about the current U.S. prison system situation.

In his speech to the committee, Vernon Walters, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, repeated the White House arguments about alleged human rights violations in the Caribbean island.

Haiti

CEP Reinstates Candidate for Deputy

FL242345 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Excerpts] The candidacy of Dr Gerard Bernard to deputy for the first electoral district of Croix-des-Bouquets, which had been rejected by the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP], has been reinstated. The CEP has now authorized him to run for office in the 29 November elections.

According to the doctor, the CEP gave no explanation of why he was now being authorized to run for office. It also had not told him why his candidacy had been rejected. We will have you listen to Dr Gerard Bernard:

[Begin recording] [Bernard] Well, when they published the list of accepted candidacies on Tuesday evening everyone in my area was astonished because I have a virgin past and have never been involved in political activity. My job was a technical position. [Passage omitted] Since I was the most popular candidate in the area the people in my area, the people who wanted to vote for me, insisted that I talk to the CEP to find out exactly why my candidacy was rejected.

[Reporter] You must be a special case because they say that when the CEP has rejected a candidacy the rejection is final. Why did it change its mind in your case? What happened?

[Bernard] I had planned to approach them under my party's banner. I am a member of the Movement for the Organization of the Country. (Arnold Herard), who is quite a dynamic person, accompanied me to see the CEP several times. The CEP was unable to receive us. Pierre Labissiere, the vice president, was either unable to receive us or was in conference, etc. On Sunday morning I went by unexpectedly and was able to see Mr Pierre Labissiere personally. I was courteously received.

[Reporter] Why hadn't they accepted your candidacy in the first place?

[Bernard] They didn't say.

[Reporter] They didn't say why?

[Bernard] No, they didn't.

[Reporter] Didn't they say it was a mistake? Because if they are telling you now that they are accepting your candidacy there must have been a mistake made before.

[Bernard] Yes, it seems there was a mistake. When I approached them Mr Labissiere interviewed me. He asked me about all the documents I had to submit in my file. Everything was there. Everything was filled out correctly. There was nothing that could be contested. He told me there was a work session to be held between 1600 and 1800 that afternoon and that the CEP would make known its decision on Monday, following that meeting. So yesterday afternoon I returned to the CEP and met with Pierre Labissiere again and he gave me a letter proving that they accepted my candidacy. So, following their decision, I resumed my campaign. [end recording] [passage omitted]

People Organize in Vigilance Committees

FL242359 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Excerpt] In view of the current wave of banditry and the absence of police protection the population has decided to protect itself and its interests. It is staying up at night and keeping watch to prevent evildoers from burning the population and its interests to a crisp.

Last night people in Carrefour Feuilles did some serious mobilizing and formed brigades to watch for macoutes. Some 12 people called on the phone last night to inform us that a group of tonton macoutes began creating disorder in the Carrefour Feuilles area at 2330. The macoutes were shooting and threatening to set fires in the upper Caridad area.

The vigilance committees, by engaging in noise-making, organized to go out into the streets after the macoutes. Thus, the macoutes had to leave the area.

According to one of the calls someone managed to disarm two of the macoutes. [passage omitted]

Arson at Port-au-Prince BEC Attempted

FL240425 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Communal Electoral Office [BEC] for Port-au-Prince, located on Chemin des Dalles, was attacked last night. Men came with intent to set it on fire, but they were chased away. They left behind half a gallon of gasoline. [passage omitted]

Salinas de Gortari on Drug Trafficking Fight

PA240347 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 13 Nov 87 p 6

[By Bernardo Gonzales]

[Excerpts] Matamoros, Tamaulipas State, 12 Nov—PRI presidential candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari categorically stated during a meeting with the IEPES [Institute for Political, Economic, and Social Studies] on security and crime prevention that drug trafficking in Mexico must be combated for reasons of state because it is a cancer that corrupts society, destroys youths, and breaks ties of solidarity. He added that it attacks the state, corrupts its defense forces, and challenges it in terms of violence and the excessive drain of economic resources.

The candidate further stated that drug trafficking constitutes a major challenge to national security because, in addition to the huge efforts undertaken to combat it, an actual crusade must be conducted. The defeat of drug trafficking must constitute a national priority.

Meeting in the main hall of the Matamoros casino, the PRI presidential candidate told dozens of lawyers, penal experts, and civilians who work for the state and national legal system that drug trafficking must be combated so that Mexico does not progress from being a point of transit or a producer to a consumer of drugs.

That is why, Salinas added, that the interests of the state and society go hand in hand in the fight against drug trafficking. Likewise, he noted that drug trafficking activities are so highly profitable that this trade must become very expensive: sanctions, pursuit, and prevention have to be drastically reinforced.

Carlos Salinas recognized that during the Mexican Government's daily battle against drug trafficking the country had sacrificed policemen and Armed Forces members. Considering that a determined fight is indispensable—not only to prevent unwanted consumption in other countries—the Mexican Government demands that countries share responsibility, noting that drug trafficking goes beyond common crimes to affect the security of the Mexican Govenment. [passage omitted]

Salinas de Gortari also said that a cleanup of the police forces is also necessary because although there are honest and responsible policemen, citizens demand organizations that really protect them. He clearly stated that there are daily charges of police abuses, making it necessary to strengthen not only the equipment but the academies, and to pay careful attention to the quantity and quality of police forces. [passage omitted]

To sum up his speech at the IEPES, Salinas de Gortari said that without public security the freedom we all enjoy could turn into the anarchy that we so much reject.

In order to avoid the change that occurs every 6 years, if elected he will increase the same public security programs now in effect under President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado.

He added that the main goal of the Mexican legal system is to provide security and justice. In addition, its political activity seeks to preserve public peace and social peace, which must not be confused with passivity, but must be an organized movement that abides by the law.

Salinas de Gortari affirmed that Mexico has one of the world's most complete and well-defined legal systems.

Peso Devaluation Not To Affect 1988 Budget

PA231559 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Report by Isabel Zamorano]

[Text] The Planning and Budget Secretariat today said that the devaluation of the peso will not affect the 1988 national budget because conditions are good. The trade surplus ensures a favorable balance of payments, and international transactions are normal.

Planning and Budget Secretariat officials said this afternoon there is no emergency or anything similar because the controlled exchange rate being used by the public sector for paying interest on both public and private debts as well as its international transactions are being maintained at normal parity.

According to the same office the devaluation was due to the following reasons:

1. In a fully responsible manner the federal government allowed the peso to freely slide in view of the offer [as heard] by the private sector.

2. The private sector demanded and continues demanding dollars beyond the normal level to make use of the facilities and advantages creditors offer for debt payments in the last months of the year.

3. The federal government will maintain its dollar reserves aside from the dollar market to guarantee the 1988 budget.

In conclusion, according to the Planning and Budget Secretariat everything is normal. The exchange rate of 2,700 pesos per dollar registered today does not affect the economic program of the country in 1988, nor will there be any problems in the future over the disparity in the exchange rate of the U.S. currency.

El Salvador

Venceremos on Return of Zamora, Ungo, Oqueli

PA241824 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] [Words indistinct] is a gesture of impotence since not even their terrorism or [words indistinct] could avoid. Our FDR companeros did not enter the country through that small opening of Salvadoran counterinsurgent democracy. [sentence as heard] Ruben Zamora, Guillermo Ungo, and Hector Oqueli entered the country through the front door that has opened thanks to the popular struggle and the space [words indistinct] the national patriotic solution. Nevertheless, they needed the international community's protection to guarantee their safety. This sad image of the much-touted Duarte democracy has been very apparent these days.

Not even during the rule of the worst and darkest military dictators did regime opponents need such protection. Napoleon Duarte himself returned to the country and the only things he had to face were the hissing and the tomatoes and eggs thrown at him by the popular movement. Duarte has intensified the tone of his threats after Dr Ruben Zamora's return despite national and international protest.

Duarte has used the same arguments that preceded the murder of Herbert Anaya Sanabria, who was linked to the FMLN. Duarte is now using the same argument; he said that links between the FDR and the FMLN could result in actions against them.

Before Herbert Anaya's murder Duarte said the FMLN was looking for a martyr. During a news conference in which he commented on Ungo and Zamora's return Duarte made a similar statement. In view of this, the international community must remain vigilant. The fact that Duarte has been unable to handle this situation in a more civilized manner shows his regime's extreme weakness. The masses will draw their own conclusions from this.

The most important conclusion will undoubtedly confirm that audacity and courage are the main ingredients of victory.

Honduras

Col Gutierrez Minera Views Esquipulas II

PY211913 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2244 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Mar del Plata, 20 Nov (TELAM)—Honduran Army Colonel Leonel Gutierrez Minera has said that his country is strictly following the provisions of the Esquipulas II Central American peace plan to show that it maintains an agreeable position and does not want to be questioned for its intransigence.

Gutierrez said that Honduras has been one of the countries that contributed most to the development of the plan. He made these comments at the Provincial Hotel in Mar del Plata at the end of the deliberations of the 17th Conference of American Armies.

Gutierrez said the Esquipulas II plan was carefully formulated and thought out by all institutions at the initiative of President Oscar Arias. Gutierrez added that we are at the stage of implementing the plan to see if, together, we can find peace for Central America.

[Words indistinct] that the OAS is seeking the appropriate organization to supervise the initiative, and he admitted that the purpose is to establish a joint peace force.

Regarding the peace plan, Gutierrez said we will have to wait and see if the Sandinist government can fulfill its part of the agreement, adding that we will have to wait to see if its timetable is followed.

Asked if during the conference the armies agreed to join efforts to fight terrorism and drug trafficking, Gutierrez said that no specific measure was agreed upon, although, he said, this has occurred in some countries.

Nicaragua

Ortega Comments After Meeting USSR Group

PA242332 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1940 GMT 24 Nov 87

[News conference held by President Daniel Ortega after meeting with a Soviet parliament delegation in the Heroes Hall at the Government House in Managua on 24 November—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What did you talk about with the Soviet delegation?

[Ortega] The Soviet Union, the same as Canada, represented by Canadian President [as heard] Clark, and Uruguay, represented by President Sanguinetti, is a nation that is interested in the Central American peace plan, in compliance with Esquipulas II. We have talked about this. This delegation has been touring Latin American countries; it started in Mexico, continued in Nicaragua, and now will go on to Costa Rica, and from there to Venezuela.

[Reporter] What is the oil situation now in Nicaragua? Is there a possibility of [word indistinct]?

[Ortega] Well, it is a problem; we are always [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Commander, Honduras is about to receive F-5 aircraft. Will Nicaragua improve its Air Force because of this?

[Ortega] I understand that the U.S. Congress has to approve the matter of the F-5 aircraft. It has to be ratified by them. [Words indistinct] in what manner they are going to be given to Honduras. However, we are going to wait [words indistinct].

[Reporter] You have reaffirmed the will to have an effective cease-fire. The United States, through the mercenaries, [words indistinct] that for a concentration of the cease-fire there must be suspension of the state of emergency, democratization in Nicaragua, and [words indistinct]. What are your comments on this?

[Ortega] Look, I do not want to respond at this time, because today [words indistinct] to Cardinal Obando y Bravo from the contras on Nicaragua's formal proposal [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] in any manner parallel to the forthcoming summit between Gorbachev and Reagan that is to begin in December?

[Ortega] We have spoken of the importance of this meeting that will be held in Washington and have said that it is a product of Soviet efforts that are intent on obtaining a true disarmament. The persistence of the USSR [words indistinct] has made them come closer to [words indistinct] related to short- and medium-range missiles.

[Reporter] Is it [words indistinct] for the Central American peace process?

[Ortega] Of course. At this summit they will undoubtedly talk about the problems in the region. However, their basic topic will be the short- and medium-range missiles. I believe that an agreement between the USSR and the United States [words indistinct] will be supported by the international community.

However, this agreement will not resolve the serious problems in Central America, such as [words indistinct] U.S. pressure expressed in its war against Nicaragua, which was even reaffirmed yesterday by the U.S. President. The U.S. President made statements that are contrary to the call they had made a few days ago—the call made by Secretary Shultz and House Speaker Jim Wright to respect the Central American peace efforts, to support the work done by Cardinal Obando y Bravo as an intermediary [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] The cardinal noted that contra leaders want a meeting in Managua. Has the government studied this proposal, bearing in mind Esquipulas?

[Ortega] We have stated very clearly that this meeting cannot be held in Nicaragua because this [words indistinct] by the population against the contra leaders and would not contribute to an atmosphere in which conversations would progress effectively. Thus, we have insisted that the meetings be held in the United States.

[Reporter] What do you know about Jim Wright's arrival in Nicaragua?

[Ortega] Mr Wright is going to Costa Rica. He will go to Costa Rica to attend [words indistinct], which is going to be (?abolished) in Costa Rica. [Words indistinct] we invited him to come to Nicaragua [words indistinct] but he will have to return, and there is also the summit between General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan.

[Reporter] What is the reason for the Spanish vice president's visit in the next few days?

[Ortega] One of the reasons is to reaffirm the friendly relations between our countries. Spain has been involved in trying to attain peace in the Central American region [words indistinct]. It is the political will of the Spanish Government [words indistinct] to have bilateral relations in the Central American region based on the Guatemalan agreement and the cooperation that Spain is giving in the effort for peace in Central America.

[Reporter] Commander, what do you think of the U.S. Senate's decision to suspend aid to Panama?

[Ortega] Well, this is interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign country, such as Panama, because we know the decision was made to pressure, to blackmail the Panamanian Government. [Words indistinct] they want to destroy [words indistinct]. I believe this is no coincidence and [words indistinct] they are interested in giving the peace efforts a blow, and thus the United States is trying to tarnish the image and credibility of the Panamanian Government in order to destabilize Contadora and any kind of support.

Contra Leaders Unable To Travel to Managua

PA241610 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1545 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] San Jose, 24 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Alfonso Robelo and Azucena Ferrey, members of the Nicaraguan Resistance directorate, were unable to travel to Managua today to deliver the contras' cease-fire proposal to Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

Robelo had told ACAN-EFE last night that the planned trip was facing serious problems because the Sandinists had not lifted the ban which prevents the contra leaders from taking commercial flights to Managua.

An anti-Sandinist spokesman today confirmed that Robelo and Ferrey's trip "was canceled" after unsuccessful efforts to overcome the official obstacles to travel to Managua.

The rebel sources today said that they are prohibited from traveling aboard commercial airlines and that their security is not guaranteed if they arrive aboard private airplanes.

President Daniel Ortega has said that the rebel leaders may enter Nicaragua on the condition that they accept the amnesty law, something Robelo and Ferrey are not willing to do, contra leader Adolfo Calero said in Tegucigalpa on Monday.

Tinoco Comments on Amnesty Law, Proposal
PA231730 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish
1930 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Report on interview with Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco Fonseca has told the "Radio Information" newscast that the Guatemala agreements refer to decreeing an amnesty law, but there are exceptions because each country is drafting its own law in keeping with its own political situation.

As for the alleged withdrawal of contras from the Aguacate military base in Honduras, the vice foreign minister said that the Foreign Ministry has no specific information on the contra withdrawal. Tinoco added, however, that Honduras, as a signatory of the Esquipulas II document, is obliged to withdraw rebel forces that use neighboring territories to attack other states. [passage omitted]

Vice Foreign Minister Tinoco also commented on an 11-point proposal presented by the Nicaraguan Government to the contras to establish a cease-fire. He said U.S. reaction and what it will say to the contra hierarchy regarding this are very important.

[Begin recording] [Tinoco] The U.S. Government reaction and its instructions to the contras on what course of action to follow will be very important. With this proposal Nicaragua is showing to the world its political willingness, flexibility, and efforts to achieve peace in Central America. It also shows its determination to defend this revolution to the end, but it also shows its flexibility.

We will wait and see what the U.S. Government has to say. If the U.S. Government is negative toward this proposal, if it does not want peace, it will tell the counterrevolutionary hierarchy to do what it can to make this peace proposal's fulfillment impossible. We accepted Cardinal Obando y Bravo as mediator.

Therefore, our position is clear, constructive, and flexible. The international community and the U.S. press itself have acknowledged this. We must now wait and see what the U.S. Administration will say and what the counterrevolutionary hierarchy will say in echoing that administration's position.

[Reporter] However, they already said they reject those points.

[Tinoco] Well, they apparently made a hasty statement in this regard. We will wait for an official and specific reply. [end recording]

Sanguinetti Praises Esquipulas Agreements
PA240157 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish
0343 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Speech by Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti on arrival in Managua—live]

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, commanders, members of the Nicaraguan Government:

I have arrived here as part of a brief tour of the five Central American countries and prior to my participation in the Acapulco summit of eight presidents, who have been working during the past few years on the issues of peace, debt, and economic justice.

We are here with a message of faith and hope and to express our determination to continue persevering in the search for a just peace, our determination to continue defending the path of justice, the peoples' right to self-determination, and strict compliance with the principle of nonintervention, which guarantee the people their free exercise of sovereignty. We are here to tell you that we have worked all these years for peace in Central America because we consider it our own cause, based on our convictions, convinced that here our own rights and interests are at stake, and that the only viable solution definitely would depend on the five countries' efforts. We have always believed—and this has been a permanent position within the Contadora and Support Groups—that we would not be a substitute for the will of Central American countries, but that we would simply contribute to creating the conditions, simply promote a frank and clear dialogue through which you could directly build the peace that at times seemed definitely lost.

Today—since August and the signing of the Esquipulas II agreement—there is a political plan for peace. It is not based merely on promises and prospects. Peace requires a political plan, not merely a proposal. It calls for a sketch, a path, phases to be covered, and goals to be accomplished. Although naturally neither mistrust, suspicions, nor conditions that have prevailed for years can disappear overnight—we all agree that we have made progress. What is important is to gradually win the battle against prejudice and mistrust—a battle that we are

waging in all fields, even within ourselves—so that we can all respect each other's differences and accept pluralism, so that we can all develop mutual confidence, and so that the Central American countries—on the basis of mutual respect—can trust each other more every day.

Today they are watching each other, they are looking in this direction, and they see [words indistinct]. Naturally, skeptical voices are always heard, demanding perfection overnight and demanding the automatic and pure application of principles. There are also naive voices, demanding unrealistic solutions, which are always diverse, changing, and [words indistinct]. Special interests also emerge in these cases, which are divisive. Undoubtedly, however, some steps have been taken; undoubtedly, all Central American countries are witnessing the advancement of a movement of democratic and peaceful affirmation. We are witnessing the work of national reconciliation commissions; we see the faces of the members of those commissions; we are listening to them and we are [words indistinct].

We see that there is a political dialogue here with opposition forces; we see the reappearance of newspapers whose positions differ from those of the government. We see specific steps that gradually show the opening of a path and a [words indistinct] democratic opportunities, which in turn pave the way toward peace. Although peace is not here yet, the outlook is now much better.

These are facts, steps, not the end of a road. In fact, they are the first steps along a road that we can visualize as a hill pointing toward the horizon. This is undoubtedly encouraging and heightens our commitment. That is the reason for our presence here—to tell you that today we are more confident that the path toward peace is possible to the extent to which we continue together to abide by the principles contained in the Esquipulas agreements, in which we all believe. If we continue advancing with the same firmness with which we have been advancing so far, undoubtedly there will be no murky forces capable of undermining this determination to achieve peace and no war will be imported against the will of peoples who undoubtedly want peace, peoples who, despite their confrontations, undoubtedly and definitely seek reconciliation. During the past century our own countries in South America lived through a period of confrontations and wars that seemed capable of forever dividing our families.

However, time passed, and today we are walking along the same path. The blood that is shed sometimes opens gaps that seem impossible to overcome; however, they can be overcome when that blood is not shed in vain, when one day the people realize that the blood was shed for their peace and liberty, the moment when that blood is no longer a gap and becomes a bridge, the moment when sacrifices are no longer in vain, when sacrifices become fruitful and positive and (?unite us instead of dividing us). Although that is not the case today, we see it as a future possibility. It is no longer an illusion; it is a possibility. It is not merely a utopian proposal. We see here that things are heading in that direction. We have come from Costa Rica. Tomorrow we will leave for Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. We see everywhere that the agreements have been backed by actions. The process is not over; however, we must believe that it will end some day, and we must contribute to its culmination.

So, we are here, Mr President, ladies, and gentlemen, to once again express our faith in those principles, to tell you that our country has been and will continue to hold the line; to tell you that we hope that the Acapulco presidential summit will be another step in the reaffirmation of a respectful and respected Latin America, of a Latin America aware of its destiny, firm in its principles, with a mature position, making it possible to maintain an independent position. We have come to tell you that, undoubtedly, peace—together with liberty—is certainly possible, and that this will be the greatest tribute that our generation can pay to our heroes, to our ancestors to whom we owe the traditions that encourage us today and continue [words indistinct].

Undoubtedly, as Sandino said, the moral strength of law can accomplish much more than brutal force. This is the road that stems from the Esquipulas II agreements: the strength derived from the moral force of law. Let us stay the course, and undoubtedly brutal force will find no justification.

Military Exercises Begin in Region 2

PA231528 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 19 Nov 87

[By Luis Aleman]

[Text] We can report that early this morning, at 0330 this morning, the first military exercises involving a staged air attack by mercenary counterrevolutionary forces and foreign forces began in this region.

The exercises began at 0330 when a staged small fleet of planes bombed several cities in Military Region 2, that is, in Leon, Chinandega, and Corinto. Following the attack EPS troops covered strategic points in this region to repel the supposed invasion by enemy forces.

We want to report that between 6,000 and 8,000 EPS units are participating in this exercise. This force includes active and reserve EPS troops, militia units, infantry troops, tank battalions, 152-mm mortar companies, and companies from the [words indistinct]. Sandinist naval units will also participate. The purpose of the exercises is to check the combat readiness conditions of the region's troops.

The exercises will also include attacks by supposed vanguard invasion forces in some strategic areas of this region. The EPS troops will face and repel the invaders.

The exercises will continue tomorrow with staged sea invasions by foreign troops. These attacks will be repelled by the Sandinist Navy. It is expected that at the conclusion of the exercises the region's high command will present an evaluation of these military maneuvers.

We want to report that these exercises are on the largest scale since the "Jubtiava-86" maneuvers were carried out in this same region last year.

Former Contra on Disillusionment, Corruption

PA231350 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 19 Nov 87 p 8

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] How did Alberto Suhr's conversion start? He was at the very core of the contras and he suddenly changed positions and reported on all the mercenary corruption. What factors influenced one of the counterrevolutionary agents praised by Reagan and whose photograph appeared with the U.S. President in *The Washington Post* to make public the rotten behavior of the Somozists?

In this part of a series of statements Suhr tells how he felt affected by a series of shameful, illegal, and even criminal acts.

"How did I become disillusioned with the contras? That is difficult to say. No one is perfect, nor do I intend to present myself as a saint, but I believe there is a limit to each person's imperfections. The behavior, the excesses, the arrogance, and the misery the contra leaders have caused surpassed the limits of my imperfection.

"I have seen in the contras an organization designed for personal gain, where those who handle this war do so as paid puppets of an organization known as the CIA. Calero himself has told me so."

"The disillusionment came bit by bit. Sometimes even I refused to believe what I saw was true, telling myself sometimes that what I saw was the exception rather than the rule."

"In real life one has to try to see things impartially, and then I had to see things objectively, which is sometimes difficult to do."

"It bothers me, because by opening my eyes more than before I recognized that we did not really want to give the new government a chance to prove what it could do. Sometimes I would see people going from Nicaragua to Honduras and I would ask them: Are you not afraid of being put in jail? These people always replied no because they were not doing anything wrong, just trying to survive."

"I have seen COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] people come to Washington and say terrible things about the Sandinist government and then return as if nothing had been said. I would ask them: Are you not worried of being thrown in jail? The reply continued to be no."

"I saw how Dr Ernesto Matamoros, the main contra doctor, recruited only pretty girls ostensibly as 'nurses' and then turned them into prostitutes. I saw how Bermudez blackmailed poor refugee girls with food so they would go to bed with him. If they refused he took their food away, their parent's food, and the food of other relatives, or threatened to send them to Nicaragua to see what they would do."

I recall once when a contra was blinded by an explosion. We were able to get him admitted to a hospital and education for the blind in Miami. The top contra leaders refused to finance the trip and or help obtain his visa, which was all they had to do. They said, "they could not be bothered with each and every problem, and, anyway, there was no money."

"A few days earlier, those who refused to pay the blind man's fare had drawn $50,000 in travel expenses so that the top leaders could go to Europe to lobby for more funds for the 'fight for democracy.' That trip was made with their families, staying at the best luxury hotels in Europe."

"On the one hand respect for human rights is preached, and on the other they violate them with incredible impunity. One can see how the soldiers were fooled into fighting for an elite and afterwards were treated like dirt."

For tomorrow: "Twice I heard discussions among the top contras leadership on how to murder Msgr Obando y Bravo and then blame the Sandinists. If Reagan were to succeed in putting the contras in power we would again have all those bodies lying around Lead Hill. [We will also tell] how good business deals are made by those who go abroad reporting alleged Sandinist "atrocities."

Bolivia

National Drug Fighting Council To Be Reformed

PY201529 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Social Defense Under Secretary Jorge Alderete has reported that the National Drug Fighting Council will become an autonomous organization and its executive president will have the rank of minister.

The National Drug Fighting Council executive board held an evaluation meeting and, according to Alderete, the government is willing to transform the council into a decentralized and autonomous organization with all the powers necessary to fight drug trafficking.

Alderete said that the purpose of this change is to attempt to establish a mechanism capable of guaranteeing an effective campaign to prevent drug addiction and to fight drug trafficking.

He said it is necessary for Congress to approve the draft bill, because it will allow the council to work according to its requirements.

[Begin recording] [Alderete] This draft bill, which is currently at the Chamber of Deputies, envisions the creation of a single, autonomous organization that will be completely in charge of the drug problem. That is, it will be in charge of prevention activities and help in recovery with regard to drug addiction, of crop substitution with reference to coca plantations, and of repressing drug trafficking activities.

[Reporter] Does this mean that the Social Defense Under Secretariat will no longer be dependent on the Interior Ministry?

[Alderete] Of course. This means that the National Drug Fighting Council, which is now presided over by the foreign minister, and which according to the law should be presided over by the president of the Republic, will become a single organization that will take charge of all drug problems.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Alderete] The draft bill envisions that the organization will have its own president, who should have the rank of minister. [end recording]

Under Secretary Alderete also said that the absence of funds is hindering the fight against drug trafficking.

Coca Producers Protest Lack of Government Aid

PY201421 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Coca producers believe that the government is scorning and evading them in order not to live up to its responsibilities, as promised in June. Coca producer leaders from the Special Federation of the Cochabamba and Yungas Tropical Region [Federacion Especial del Tropico de Cochabamba y los Yungas] arrived in La Paz after being summoned by the National Drug Fighting Council for an evaluation meeting.

However, Anibal Aguilar, under secretary for alternative development and substitution of coca cultivation, reported that it [not further identified] was a mistake.

The coca producers told Panamericana that they were very annoyed at the government's attitude. According to leader Alberto Vargas, the government is not assuming its responsibilities and is not contributing to regional development as promised.

He said the peasants have voluntarily eradicated 550 hectares of coca plantations to prevent the discontinuation of U.S. aid to Bolivia. Despite the peasants' efforts, the Bolivian Government is avoiding talking with them. The coca producer leaders also said that they would not be responsible for protests that may arise due to the government's attitude.

[Begin Vargas recording, in progress] ...we came here, but they are ignoring us. They are not taking us into consideration for this meeting. Therefore, we will have to consult with our base organizations because we will not be scorned. We are eradicating the coca plantations and no development plan is being implemented.

We are subject to what our base organizations decide, and we cannot be held responsible for what may happen. [Words indistinct] our sacrifice and for willingly eradicating the plantations. [end recording]

The council will meet with the Yungas and Chapare Region coca producers to explain the scope of the regional development program. This meeting will take place soon.

Under Secretary Anibal Aguilar told Panamericana that the council is interested in explaining the government's good will in complying with the commitments assumed last June.

As an example of the seriousness with which we are carrying out the alternative development program, he said, we are witnessing national economic progress as well as carrying out coca eradication and alternative plantation campaigns.

This is a multilateral process, and the executive branch has the best of intentions in carrying out development programs in the Chapare and Yungas Region, Aguilar stated.

Brazil

Finance Minister Views Debt Negotiations

PY232140 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Nov 87 p A 53

[Telephone interview with Finance Minister Bresser Pereira by FOLHA DE SAO PAULO correspondent Armando Ourique from Bresser's residence in Sao Paulo on 21 November]

[Excerpt] *Folha* Will Brazil pay interest on the medium-term debt that falls due on 1 January on a regular basis even before the conclusion of the final agreement with the private banks advisory committee?

Bresser: Brazil will not pay interest out of its reserves. Payments will resume only after the conclusion of the final agreement with the advisory committee. It is not possible to pay interest without having the appropriate financial support for these disbursements. For 1988, Brazil will need "new resources" amounting to 60 percent of the interest that is to be paid. This became clear at the negotiation of the provisional agreement. Without a previous financing of interests, Brazil will not pay them. If it pays, Brazil will be committing an irresponsible action.

Folha Will Brazil, then, continue with the moratorium?

Bresser: I am very pessimistic about that. The payment of the $500 million of the provisional accord by 31 December does not represent the end of the moratorium.After 1 January, Brazil would not be current in its interest payments even if money were taken from its reserves. For this reason, I insisted on two points: that the final agreement be concluded by 31 December, and that resources of the second "stage" (parcel) of the provisional agreement ($2 billion from the banks and $1 billion from Brazil) be used for the payment of interest from January to June 1988. The committee did not accept these two points. It is their problem. The committee has stated that there is not enough time to conclude negotiations by 31 December. They set 15 January for the conclusion of negotiations. They did not accept the idea of using the $3 billion of the second "parcel" to keep current the payment of interest from January to June 1988. It was established that that "parcel" be used for the payment of interests from February to September 1987. The problem is theirs.

Folha Will Brazil keep the moratorium until the first half of 1988?

Bresser: During the first days of 1988, the newspapers will publish headlines saying that Brazil has returned to the moratorium. Theses reports will not deserve front-page headlines. If we were not able to get out of the moratorium, it would be for those reasons I mentioned. The important thing is that Brazil is acting in good faith and is willing to conclude negotiations as soon as possible.

Under current circumstances, the moratorium is the most normal thing in the world. We must establish a fundamental principle of not paying interest when the debtor country has no financial support. Under this situation, when there is no market willing to grant loans to debtor countries, interest must be paid only after the signing of a financial agreement. Paying interest while negotiations are being conducted, thus losing reserves, represents an irresponsible action. The disbursement of $500 million by Brazil on 31 December will in fact represent a token payment. Brazil does not support the idea of suspending the moratorium.

Folha Some representatives of the bank committees believe, however, that Brazil will have a sufficient trade surplus during the first half of the year to enable the payment of interest without any financial support and without having to exhaust its reserves.

Bresser: To pay that interest, Brazil must have 60 percent of the disbursements financed, and that is all. The banks will always say that we can achieve a surplus sufficient to pay interests. Our capabilities have been well calculated. The economy subcommittee of the advisory committee is now discussing in Brasilia whether the financial need for 1988 is 60 percent of the interests to be paid, or 58 percent, or 56 percent. That is a good discussion. However, Brazil definitely cannot pay interest without a financial support of approximately 60 percent.

Folha Is there a 15-January deadline for the conclusion of negotiations with the IMF?

Bresser: No. Negotiations with the IMF will probably end long after that date. The 15-January deadline is the date for the conclusion of negotiations with the IMF Advisory Committee. Bank officials will probably maintain that 15 January is the deadline for the negotiations because they are reluctant to accept the idea that disbursements from the IMF and from banks will not be linked.

There are five non-negotiable points for reaching any agreement: 1) Clear, total, and precise separation of loans from the IMF and loans from commercial banks. This will make possible the conversion of the debt into long term securities at lower interest rates. 3) [Number as published] Lower risk factor ("spread") than the ones fixed for Argentina and Mexico (13/16 of 1 percent). 4) The establishment of an interest rate ceiling. 5) An adequate offer of "fresh loans."

It will be useless to start negotiations if banks do not accept these five points. It would be a waste of time. It is obvious though, that an interest rate ceiling and the adequate amount of fresh loans are negotiable items. We cannot have everything. Of course, we would like to have a negative "spread" and 100 percent conversion of the debt into long-term securities. However, we understand this is not possible.

Folha Why does Brazil need an agreement for the conversion of the debt into long-term securities?

Bresser: Because there is a clause called the "sharing clause" in our contracts by which banks cannot be treated differently from each other. Therefore, we cannot close any separate agreement with banks for the conversion of our debt into long-term securities even if we reach voluntary agreements with all of them. Banks have to sign an authorization for this to be possible. They have to sign a "waiver" on this clause.

Folha What kind of agreement will Brazil negotiate with the IMF?

Bresser: It will be a "stand-by" agreement but without links between the disbursements of the IMF and the disbursements of banks. (According to the terms of this kind of agreements, if Brazil does not fulfill one of the goals provided for in the program of economic adjustment of the "stand-by" agreement, the IMF can suspend the disbursement of its loans. However, if the agreements are not conditioned to each other, the banks will not stop disbursing their loans) This is something new because in all other "stand-by" agreements there is a mutual conditioning of IMF disbursements and bank disbursements.

Brazil will not negotiate this point. The IMF is not empowdered to police the economies of the world. IMF officials do not like this function themselves. The role of the IMF is to help, orient, and contribute with recommendations in economic policy when country-members have difficulties with their balance of payments. It is not a role of the IMF to punish the failure of country-members to meet economic goals with the suspension of disbursement of its loans which in turn cause banks to suspend the disbursement of their loans. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Medellin Mayoral Candidate's Home Attacked

PA240441 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Medellin—For security reasons Juan Gomez Martinez, the Conservative candidate for Medellin's mayoral office, together with his wife and children, left his El Poblado neighborhood residence at dawn today. His family moved to an unspecified location 3 hours after 12 armed men brutally attacked the residence of the Antioquia politician and journalist.

The terrorists knocked down the garage door with one of the two Toyotas they were traveling in and opened heavy fire against the main gate and windows. However, the attackers failed to enter because Jorge Gomez, one of the sons of the manager of the newspaper *El Colombiano*, managed to close the doors quickly, according to information given to the Caracol newscast by metropolitan Mayor William Jaramillo Gomez.

Area residents, who fired guns into the air and thus called the attention of the police, forced the gunmen to abandon their efforts; they fled toward southern Aburra Valley.

Shortly after the unsuccessful attack a copy of a letter sent to Mr Gomez Martinez by a group called the Extraditables, stating that they wanted to take him hostage to hand him a message for the government, was circulated in all Medellin newspapers' editorial offices.

According to the attackers, this is the start of an offensive to block the turning over of Jose Luis Ochoa Vasquez to U.S. authorities.

Ecuador

President Denies Iran Arms Sales Role

PA240421 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Excerpts] President Leon Febres-Cordero, who headed the military ceremony held today in (Parsanacu), categorically stated to the press that Ecuador has not had and has nothing to do with the illegal sales of weapons to Iran. [passage omitted]

Febres-Cordero denied that relations between the two countries have been compromised as a result of this charge, because the government of that European country [France] duly clarified the reports.

The head of state also discussed various aspects of current affairs, including economic measures and the situation regarding the [U.S.] dollar which, he said, is returning to normal thanks to the timely measures adopted by the Monetary Board.

[Begin Febres-Cordero recording, in progress] ...the news media at approximately 1730 in the evening—today, this evening—[words indistinct] Ecuador definitively clarifies this sensitive and compromising problem. The Ecuadoran authorities are relieved of any responsibility in this communique.

Now then, no one knows what really happened except to say that one gets the impression that the French firm that sold the weapons to Iran used forged documents using

the names of several countries, one of which seems to have been Ecuador. I can guarantee—and this is substantiated by the French communique—that during my administration the Ecuadoran Government had nothing to do with this matter and it seems that neither did the previous administration.

We cannot guarantee whether foreign citizens or (?even) Ecuadoran citizens were involved in this, but it will fall on the French authorities to determine this and to take action according to their laws, because the origin of the problem, of the crime, is France. We, in turn, will keep abreast of developments in order to adopt any measures [words indistinct] if necessary. [end recording]

Peru

Garcia on L.A. Presidents Summit in Acapulco

PA232009 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Interview with President Alan Garcia Perez by unidentified reporters on 20 November; location not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Garcia] We have waited for this meeting for a long time. I remember that when I took office I suggested holding a meeting of Latin American presidents, without being summoned by the U.S. President, as has happened with the two previous meetings that we have held. I also asked that we discuss common topics and make decisions. Now, the world is in crisis. We cannot respond to the crisis in a divided and irresponsible manner.

This is a world of big continents: the United States, Europe, Latin America. [sentence as heard] We must give a historic answer to the problems we are experiencing. The problem in the New York Stock Exchange expresses the irrationality of the international economic system, which divides the haves from the have nots. In order to address that problem we must make decisions regarding the foreign debt, international trade, and our defense of Latin American sovereignty.

We must meet for that purpose. I think that this is no longer the time to just talk; we must decide and act, not just speak. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Is this meeting held without any East-West pressures?

[Garcia] Certainly. Responding to the injustices of the international capitalist system does not at all mean falling under another sphere of influence. We believe in the principle of nonalignment. We do not want to serve as a base for any of the superpowers that are confronting each other with nuclear weapons, a confrontation which leads to an irrational war to the death.

We want to reaffirm our historical and cultural identity because the Latin American identity has always existed. I believe that although this may not be understood now we are duty-bound to promote this major historic leap.

Many people will ask: What is the relationship between Latin America's unity and the rise in the price of bread and the absence of poultry in the market? There is one! When we integrate this big continent, which has a market of hundreds of millions of people, we will be able to have technologically developed industries for hundreds of millions of Latin Americans. With our raw materials and this continent's intellectuals we can create a solid organization that will enable us to overcome the small problems each one of our countries is experiencing. Each country has tried to build its own industry and has paid a high cost for that industry. Each one believes that it alone could better sell its products abroad but has been swindled, exploited, and plundered. Each one believes now that it alone can negotiate its foreign debt with international banks and major powers. However the only thing such countries have achieved is becoming more indebted and tightening the people's belts. [passage omitted]

Suriname

Bouterse Comments on Elections, Military Role

FL231923 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Government leader Bouterse has called on the people to respect the outcome of the elections and urged the successful parties to refrain from molestation and intimidation after elections. Commander Bouterse yesterday gave his last interview as government leader. He called on the people to be aware of the fact that the November 25th election is only a snapshot, and that afterwards all Surinamese, regardless who wins the election, will be needed to further build the country.

When asked about the role of the military after the elections, Bouterse said the Army has a historic task, since it took over the country in 1980. It is a political reality that the Army is a factor on the political scene which has to be reckoned with, said Bouterse. He said it would be naive and unrealistic to think that this country could be ruled without the military and the labor movement.

Claims VHP-Rebel Ties

FL231858 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Yesterday evening Commander Bouterse revealed that he is in possession of materials which can prove that the VHP [Progressive Reformed Party] is in contact with the Brunswijk gang in eastern Suriname. The VHP is one of the partners in the Front for Democracy and Development. Bouterse said he told the VHP about this and that recordings have been made about the conversation.

The VHP said it will talk with Brunswijk after the election, but we will not allow that, said Bouterse. The government leader said that a dialogue with Brunswijk is exactly what Holland wants.

Bouterse yesterday addressed the last mass rally of the National Democratic Party of which he is a member.

VHP leader Jaggernath Lachmon said he has no time for the Brunswijk question before elections and that he will deal with this problem after November 25th. Lachmon stated this in a short interview with our newsroom this morning when he was asked for a reaction on allegations by Commander Bouterse that the VHP maintains relations with the terrorist gang of Brunswijk. I'm surprised that the commander has accused me of treason since I have never in my life betrayed anyone, said the VHP leader. He denied that he has contacts with the so-called jungle commando, adding that he denounces violence and that's why he will not get into contact with the Brunswijk gang after elections. He said his party will deal with the Brunswijk question after the elections since it is now focusing on November 25th.

Emergency Zone Poll Procedures 'Improper'
PM241543 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 20 Nov 87 p 6

[By Wim Noordegraaf: "Suriname's Election Bureau Considers Procedures for Emergency Zones Improper"]

[Text] Paramaribo—The independent election bureau in Paramaribo has warned the government that the arrangements for the elections in the three regions of the country in which a state of emergency exists are not in line with election law. The members of the election bureau have expressed their objections to the extension of the period for registration of candidates and the location of polling stations in Paramaribo for maroons who have fled the regions. Brunswijk's jungle commando is active in the three regions where a state of emergency is in force.

If Prime Minister Wijdenbosch pays no attention to the objections of the election bureau the government runs the risk that the results of the elections in the Marowijne, Brokopondo, and Sipaliwini districts will be declared invalid and the 10 seats representing those districts in the National Assembly would remain vacant. The members of the election bureau are the nominees of the political parties taking part in the election. Suriname's acting president has confirmed their appointment for a period of 6 years.

In a letter Justice Minister Gilds has also expressed his worries about the procedures adopted. Gilds considers that the special provisions that have been made are in conflict with electoral law and the Constitution. He is thus in line with the stance of the C-47 trade union federation. The federation had announced earlier that it would oppose the elections in the districts where a state of emergency is in force.

Heidweiller Scores Netherlands Attitudes
FL231730 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Suriname is sick and tired of the untiring efforts of the Dutch political world and the media to tarnish our democratization process. This was stated in an interview by Foreign Minister Henck Heidweiller last weekend. He noted that the foreign observers for the elections have not been invited as a show window but to counter allegations by Holland. Minister Heidweiller is of the opinion that Dutch politicians have deceived Suriname and said he thinks that Holland doesn't want to live up to its promise to normalize relations with Suriname. According to Heidweiller, Suriname has lived up to the conditions for normalization but Holland hasn't taken a single step in that direction. He says this behavior is untrustworthy and stated that this was the reason why Suriname brought the question before the International Court of Justice. One of the results of the normalization of relationship between Suriname and Holland will be the so-called Dutch development aid to Suriname which Holland has refused to pay for the last 4 years.

Pleased With OAS Trip
FL242214 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Henck Heidweiller signed four treaties during the 17th annual meeting of the Organization of American States, the OAS. Suriname has now entered the Inter-American Treaty for Human Rights and the Treaty Against Torture, while it is also recognized at the Inter-American Court for Human Rights. Minister Heidweiller ratified the Treaty of Cartagena through which Guyana and Belize can now become members of the OAS. During a press conference yesterday the minister said that the OAS meeting was important to Suriname since the member states have evaluated the political situation in the region and are now informed about the democratization process in our country and the situation in the field of human rights.

During his visit to Washington, from 9 through 14 November, Minister Heidweiller spoke with, among others, the heads of the political and Caribbean desks of the State Department. He also spoke with the national security adviser.

Minister Heidweiller said it is noteworthy that the OAS asked him to deliver the closing address and to be the spokesman for the Caribbean. The Surinamese foreign minister said it indicates, among other things, that the isolation of Suriname in the Americas has been completely broken.

National Assembly Legalizes People's Militia

PM241553 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 21 Nov 87 p 6

[ANP dispatch: "Surinamese Assembly Gives People's Militia Legal Status"]

[Text] Paramaribo—This week, shortly before the 25 November elections, Suriname's National Assembly passed a decree giving the people's militia legal status. The people's militia is an organization of citizens who help "to defend internal order in the country."

Since 1982 Surinamese citizens have been trained by the Army in the use of weapons to perform civil defense or military operations. The organization had hitherto not had any base in law. Nor did the new Constitution, adopted 30 September in a referendum, make any mention of the people's militia. The Constitution simply left room for "defense structures" in extraordinary circumstances, such as war or a state of siege.

The Assembly also backed a decree giving the Surinamese Army the task of "preserving and watching over the progress of the revolutionary process." The Surinamese military will also "participate in development projects within the framework of socioeconomic development." The Constitution states that the Army must defend the sovereignty and independence of Suriname and also work to promote "national reconstruction and the liberation of the nation."